

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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/079 W

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O P 291146Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9441
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 5016

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE
SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION, AUGUST 29, 1978, 1300 HOURS
LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 4994 (DTG 281509Z AUG 78)

1. FIGHTING IN LEBANON.
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A. THE FIGHTING IN THE AYN AR-RUMMANEH AND SHIYAH
AREAS, WHICH BEGAN AT ABOUT 1630 HOURS ON AUGUST 28, STOPPED
AT ABOUT 1930 HOURS. ELSEWHERE, BEIRUT HAS REMAINED CALM.

B. IN NORTH LEBANON, BATROUN AREA IS REPORTED GENERALLY
QUIET. ACCORDING TO L'ORIENT-LE JOUR, HOWEVER, SYRIAN

FORCES AND CHRISTIAN MILITIAMEN CLASHED IN THE AREA OF THE CEDARS FROM ABOUT 1400 HOURS TO 1930 HOURS ON AUGUST 28. THE SYRIANS OCCUPIED A GENDARME POST IN THE REGION, THE PAPER SAID.

C. THE EPIDEMIC OF INCIDENTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, HOWEVER, RISKS PROVOKING A MAJOR CONFRONTATION, EVEN IF UNPLANNED.

2. BOUTROS RETURNS FROM SYRIA.

FOREIGN MINISTER FUAD BOUTROS RETURNED TO BEIRUT ON AUGUST 28 AFTER MEETING WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD AND SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM IN LATAKIA. THE TWO SIDES DOUBTLESS DISCUSSED THE SECURITY SITUATION IN LEBANON, AND THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE LEBANESE ARMY SOUTH. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT DECISIVE PROGRESS WAS MADE ON ANY OF THESE ISSUES, HOWEVER. FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS TOLD REPORTERS VAGUELY THAT SYRIA IS READY TO SUPPORT ANY DECISION TAKEN BY THE LEGAL LEBANESE AUTHORITIES.

3. BACHIR GIVES WARNING.

AFTER A ONE-HOUR MEETING WITH NLP LEADER CAMILLE CHAMOUN ON AUGUST 28, MILITIA COMMANDER BACHIR GEMAYEL SAID PUBLICLY THAT THE CURRENT SITUATION WAS REMINISCENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE EARLY DAYS OF THE 1975-76 WAR, IKE REPORTED. IMPLYING THAT THE MILITIAS FORESAW FURTHER FIGHTING, BACHIR SAID THE MARONITE POLITICAL PARTIES WERE "DEVELOPING THE CONVICTION THAT SYRIA IS BAITING US INTO A WAR."

4. SIILASVUO MEETS WITH KHOURY.

ENSIO SIILASVUO, COORDINATOR OF THE U.N. FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, MET AUGUST 28 IN YARZE WITH ARMY COMMANDER KHOURY AND LEBANON'S U.N. AMBASSADOR GHASSEN TUEINI. THE TWO SIDES DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON, BUT REACHED NO NEW DECISIONS, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS.

DECON 10/29/78.
KINSOLVING

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